

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 233792
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 PM-05 COME-00 DODE-00 NSF-02
/029 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB:MJB
APPROVED BY OES/OFA/MST:WERB
ARA/MEX - H. LANE
-----079843 290438Z /13

R 282242Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 233792

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, MX

SUBJECT: R/V THOMAS G. THOMPSON CLEARANCE REQUEST, 18 JAN
- 14 MAR 1978

1. R/V THOMAS G. THOMPSON, A PRIVATE VESSEL OPERATED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON AND FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH, IS PLANNING TO CONDUCT MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OFF MEXICO. THERE WILL BE TWO SEPARATE CRUISES DURING THE CLEARANCE PERIOD. THE FIRST WILL BE CONDUCTED BY DR. JAMES W. MURRAY AND THE SECOND BY DR. JAMES J. ANDERSON, BOTH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON.

2. MURRAY'S CRUISE IS DESIGNED TO STUDY THE DIAGENESIS OF ORGANIC MATTER IN HEMIPELAGIC BASIN SEDIMENTS. THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE THE ROLE THESE SEDIMENTS PLAY IN THE GLOBAL CYCLES OF THE NUTRIENT ELEMENTS -- CARBON, NITROGEN, PHOSPHATE, SULFUR, AND OXYGEN. TRACE METALS AND SEDIMENTS WILL BE OBTAINED FROM BOTTOM SAMPLES AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PORE WATER SAMPLES. EQUIPMENT WILL INCLUDE A BOX CORE AND INSITU PORE WATER SAMPLER.

3. ANDERSON'S CRUISE OBJECTIVE IS TO STUDY THE PROCESSES THAT CAUSE THE OXYGEN DEFICIENT ZONE AND ANAEROBIC SPACE

IN THE EASTERN TROPICAL NORTH PACIFIC. THIS IS A LARGE

REGION OF OCEAN BELOW THE THERMOCLINE WHERE BACTERIAL DENITRIFICATION IS THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT BIOLOGICAL PROCESS. ECOLOGICALLY IT IS IMPORTANT 0E"AUSE (1) NITRATE IS REMOVED FROM THE BIOSPHERE BY BACTERIAL CONVERSION TO NITROGEN, (2) THE REGION COULD POTENTIALLY FORM TOXIC HYDROGEN, AND (3) OXYGEN DEFICIENT REGIONS ARE ESSENTIALLY A VOLUME OF THE OCEAN UNUSABLE BY FISH. THE RESEARCH WILL INVOLVE TAKING WATER AND CHEMICAL SAMPLES USING A PUMPING SYSTEM, HYDROBOTTLES, AND INCUBATION BUOYS.

4. MURRAY'S CRUISE WILL DEPART SAN DIEGO ON 18 JAN AND ARRIVE MANZANILLO ON 12 FEB. ANDERSON'S CRUISE WILL DEPART MANZANILLO 15 FEB AND ARRIVE SAN DIEGO 14 MAR. STATION LOCATION CHARTS ARE BEING POUCHED. ALL DATA RESULTS WILL BE SHARED WITH GOM AND TWO BERTHS ARE AVAILABLE ON EACH CRUISE FOR MEXICAN PARTICIPANTS.

5. SHIP'S CAPTAIN IS C. W. CLAMPITT WITH A CREW OF 22 AND SCIENTIFIC PARTY OF 19. THOMPSON IS 209 FT. LONG, 1151 GROSS TONS, AND HAS A 15 FT. DRAFT. RADIO CALL SIGN IS KGWT AND SHIP MONITORS STANDARD EMERGENCY FREQUENCIES. AGENT IN MANZANILLO IS AGENCIAS MARITIMAS DEL PACIFICO, S.A.

6. ACTION: EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO SEEK CLEARANCE FOR BOTH RESEARCH PROJECTS AS DESCRIBED. BOTH WILL INVOLVE UNCLASSIFIED

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RESEARCH WITHIN TWO MILES OF THE COAST AND MURRAY'S CRUISE WILL ALSO INVOLVE CONTINENTAL SHELF RESEARCH. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Message ID: 673caa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1091992
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: R/V THOMAS G. THOMPSON CLEARANCE REQUEST, 18 JAN - 14 MAR 1978
TAGS: OCLR, TGEN, TPHY, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/673caa3a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009